

**Governor's P-20 Council  
Access to Higher Education Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, March 28, 2006  
11:00 a.m.  
Meeting Minutes**

**P-20 Council Members Present:** Chair Dr. Jim Zaharis, Mark Bryce, Regent Ernie Calderon, Greg Donovan, Dr. Roy Flores, Dr. John Haeger (telephonic), Laura Palmer Noone,

**Others:** Amanda Burke for Michael Crow, Stephanie Jacobs, Kathy Boyle, Suzanne Miles, Dr. April Osborn, Christy Farley, Helen Rosen, Lorie O'Brien, and Jodi Decker

**Staff:** Debra Raeder, Darcy Renfro,

**1. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions**

Chair Dr. Jim Zaharis called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m., welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited those present to introduce themselves.

**2. Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**a. January 24, 2006**

There being no discussion on or corrections to the Committee meeting of January 24, 2006, Cindy Rudrud moved approval of the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by David Curd and unanimously approved.

**3. Presentation & Discussion: Current Legislation**  
**a. Student Identifiers Numbers**

Darcy Renfro updated the Committee on SB1045, sponsored by Senator Gray, which would require public universities and community college districts to use an identifying number for students that corresponds to the student's previously assigned Student Accountability Information System (SAIS) number. Darcy asked if anyone was opposed to the legislation. The consensus of the Committee was supportive of SB1045. Dr. Flores indicated he would want assurance that such implementation would be cost neutral.

**b. NGA Graduation Rate Compact**

Debra Raeder provided information to the Committee on work currently being done by the Data & Graduation Rate Committee regarding student identifier numbers. Debra indicated that she, Dan Anderson of ABOR, and Dr. Vicki Balentine, State Board of Education, attended a conference in Florida on how states are creating longitudinal data systems. Debra distributed information from the DataQuality Campaign on the 10 essential elements of a longitudinal data system wherein Element No. 9 discusses the critical need for states to have common student identifier numbers.

The Committee engaged in further discussion on SB1045, and, once implemented, what type of information such a system would be attempting to collect and that this information not be limited to "just" transfer and articulation; that the tracking system go through first employment; and that staff should look at the "National Data Clearing House" and whether Arizona should consider being part of this system. It was the Committee's consensus that these and other cogent points need to be vetted as a result of SB1045.

#### **4. Student Financial Aid Discussion:**

##### **a. AFAT Legislation/Private Scholarships**

Darcy Renfro updated the Committee on the AFAT legislation indicating that the Governor's priority is her budget request for \$6.9 million but that this does not limit support for other proposals including funding for private post-secondary institutions.

Martha Harmon provided the Committee with a brief overview of the Arizona College Scholarship Foundation, whose goal is to increase the number of baccalaureate degrees through scholarships and mentoring programs to low income/high potential students. Ms. Harmon provided the Committee with a brochure describing the work of the Foundation. The Foundation is looking to support 500 students a year, which support will not supplant state financial aid funds. While the current focus has been Maricopa County, the Foundation will be reaching out to Pima County as well as the rest of the state in the next year. There was a brief discussion on the need to serve not only this targeted population, but to employ strategies to assist working adults continuing their education.

##### **b. Postsecondary Commission & Financial Aid**

Dr. April Osborn presented a brief overview of the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education, whose main goal is to expand access and increase success in postsecondary education for Arizona citizens. The Commission administers \$3.3 million in state grants for low income students; sponsors the Arizona Family College Savings Program; and sponsors College Goal Sunday to assist students and their families through the application process for financial aid (FAFSA). Dr. Osborn indicated the Commission is named in 12 different bills currently before the legislature. Dr. Osborn also distributed information on the work of the Commission. Dr. Osborn invited Committee members to attend a conference on Developing Arizona's Human Capital, being sponsored by the Commission, which is being held on April 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel. Featured speaker is David Brooks, New York Times columnist and speaker.

#### **5. Presentation & Discussion: 2+2 & 3+1 – What does this Mean?**

Dr. Zaharis indicated that while the P-20 Council has adopted the first four JCC recommendations, and has explored the overall goal of helping more students become degree completers, there are still many issues that need to be addressed. A major issue is how we define 3 + 1. Dr. Haeger indicated that there are many variations the 3 + 1 concept could take, such as: a university center on the campuses of community colleges wherein staff and facilities could be/are shared; it could be community colleges literally offering a third year; or community colleges offering higher level courses in less articulated programs.

Kathy Boyle, Executive Director of the Arizona Community College Association indicated that the community colleges would like to see a traditional third year offered at the community colleges, which would require legislation. Stephanie Jacobsen, Associate Executive Director for the Arizona Board of Regents, stated that the universities recognize the need to increase the number of opportunities that would allow students to stay at community colleges for a longer period of time and that there are a number of examples of how this is successfully working currently in place around the state.

The Committee engaged in a lengthy discussion on this topic including the need to look at articulation from the perspective of the student and to meet and prioritize the student's needs; the need to endorse articulation of courses from any institution to count toward graduation—the need to be transparent (recommended a look at the Oregon model); the need to centralize transfers within the university programs; cost; as well as the issue of 2 + 2 + 2 models.

## **6. Discussion: P-20 Council Retreat**

Debra Raeder indicated that staff was looking at a location and possible dates toward the end of May or early June for the Retreat. The Committee requested that the discussion on 3 + 1 be part of the Retreat. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that the following topics be considered for discussion at the Retreat:

- a. P-20 Alignment – look at the issues from the point of view of the student;
- b. Standards – are they the same between institutions, and are they effective;
- c. Resources – effect and economies of solutions;
- d. Centralized transfers;
- e. 3 + 1 programs.

## **7. Next Steps**

Committee members are to contact Debra or Dr. Zaharis if they have any other recommendations or thoughts concerning the Retreat.

## **8. Call to the Public**

There were no requests from the Public to address the Committee.

## **9. Adjournment**

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 12:25 p.m.